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Executive Registry
5-8447

28 July 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Administration)

SUBJECT : Finance Officers in the Field

REFERENCE : Auditor-in-Chief Memorandum For DD/A, dated 9 July 54, subject: Independence of Finance Officers in the Field.

1. While I am in general concurrence with the proposal made by the Auditor-in-Chief concerning the independence of finance officers in the field, I do not believe that it is practical to do it in the manner suggested. What I believe is required is a firm understanding on the part of all station chiefs, administrative officers, and finance officers, to the effect that the finance officer is authorized to refuse to advance funds for any purpose which he does not believe to be covered by the regulations or to be adequately authorized. The station chief should have the authority to underwrite the finance officer in such matters, but only if this is done in writing. The finance officer can then become the true custodian of the funds and we will have established a proper system of checks and balances.

/S/
Lyman B. Kirkpatrick
Inspector General

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